

AFOC MAILBAG

Dear AFOC,

These guys are the joy in my life! Thank you so much for the opportunity to make them a home. We are very happy.



Jackie

Dear Judy,

Enclosed is my picture of Buffy (Phoebe). She is such a love and such good company. I lost my husband in October and I feel so lonesome sometimes. Buffy seems to know when I need a pick-up and jumps right up beside me on the couch. If I could only teach her to talk!

I'm enclosing a gift to help the shelter in their work. And thank you again for Buffy.

Sincerely,

Gert

South Windsor, CT



Dear Judy& Barbara,

Hope you are well. My two cats, Woody and Cuchi, celebrated their ninth birthday this week and they both bring me such pleasure. On March 3rd, 2000, I lost my beautiful nine year old calico "Pumpkin" to cancer. My house and life were very empty.

Hearing about Animal Friends of Connecticut, I called Barbara Morris, who told me that a litter was born on March 18th, 2000 and that I could come for a visit. So, six days later I had my first encounter with Woody and Cuchi. Both fit in my hand with room to spare. It was eight long weeks of waiting before they were ready to be brought home. But it was also a happily expectant time because I so looked forward to sharing my home with them.

Woody possesses every cat toy imaginable and Cuchi has her special chair by the window, propped with pillows, so she can view her yard and watch her birds.

A further happy note is that their mother, "Pandora", was also a wonderful adoption story. I will always be grateful to Animal Friends, and especially for the kindness and understanding Barbara Morris showed me at such a difficult time in my life.

Thank you again for the marvelous job you all do!

Barbara

Southington, CT



Dear Animal Friends of Connecticut,

I want to take the time to thank you for the care you gave me when looking for my new home. Now I have my own room with a day bed right near a big bay window and I have plenty of toys. I also have a kitty bed in the living room so that I can hang out with family and friends. When Mom fills my food bowl, I purr so loud you can hear me in the next room. I am so grateful for what you've done for me and for what you continue to do for my brothers and sisters.

Love,

Toby (nee Opie).



P.S. As you can see Toby is doing very well!!!

Sandy ,(Mom)

Enfield, CT

Dear AFOC,

Five years ago, AFOC introduced me to Bridget at their New Britain shelter. She wouldn't let me leave the shelter without her. She has been my loving friend and the best kitty I've ever had. Bridget loves everyone who visits and expects her affection returned. And she gets it! Everyone finds Bridget irresistible and I thank you, by means of the enclosed donation, for bringing us together.

Audrey

Avon, CT

IN LOVING MEMORY

SHAMU: Please accept this donation in memory of my dog Shamu who, after seventeen & half years, had to leave for doggie heaven.

- Janet

Lebanon, CT

SUKI: This contribution is made in loving memory of our beloved Siamese cat, Suki. She was a part of our lives for seventeen years and was our special sweet angel. Now she's in the arms of heaven's angels - may she find some comfort there. Rest in peace, sweet angel.

- Larry & Bette

East Hartford, CT



UNITED WAY

You can donate while at work by making a contribution to THE UNITED WAY. Just specify that your donation is intended for AFOC. Please use the following letters and numbers on the form: AG 0640.



Sunshine Fund

Sunshine was a dog that came to us many years ago. She was a Shepherd Husky cross and was found in a project in Hartford with one eye poked out by a stick. The owners signed the dog over to AFOC. We had her injuries treated and we found her a wonderful home. She lived to be over 14 years old. What happened to Sunshine was just the beginning of many years involved in rescuing injured and abused animals. This fund is in her memory.



Sponsorship Program

We have many cats that are not adoptable or hard to place. We are looking for sponsors willing to sponsor a rescue cat by helping to cover the cost of food, litter, and basic medicine. Our goal is to sponsor every cat.

Judy Levy, Director
Alicia Mendelsohn, Editor
Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc.
P.O. Box 370306
West Hartford, Connecticut 06137-0306
(860) 827-0381

www.afocinc.org

To inform you of upcoming AFOC events, we are starting an e-mail service for those of you who have e-mail capability.

Any e-mail address that you supply will be used only by AFOC. It will not be published nor will the list be supplied to an outside source.

If you'd like to be on our list, send your name and e-mail address to webmaster@afocinc.org.

Thank you.



I-GIVE MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

Register with I-Give on line. Shop on line with major retailers and help AFOC at the same time! All consumer transactions will contain a percentage donated to AFOC.

ANOTHER CONVENIENT WAY OF GIFT GIVING!

You can now use your credit card and make a donation on-line through PayPal. Just go directly to our website for further details (www.afocinc.org).



We would be happy to accept any donation of a car, van or truck in good running condition. They are a charitable tax deduction and help us continue our daily work.

Support our fund raisers!

A NOTE FROM NOVA SCOTIA

To My Friends at AFOC,

My owner just clicked off your web site and wanted to send you an update. Genie left it up to me to write to you, so here goes.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for bringing my owner and me together and for taking such good care of me until we found each other. I had written to all of you a few years ago, but a lot has happened since then.

My owner took me home in September, 1998. I wasn't a kitten but over two years old and one of the 'hard to adopts' that had lived at the shelter for almost two years.

I loved Genie right away but my feral instincts would overwhelm me when I felt threatened or frightened. My lady was so patient with me and eventually love won out for both of us.

In Nova Scotia, where I've lived since June, 2001, they call me a "sook", referring to a baby's sooky blanket used for comfort. I have turned into a real spoiled fur-pile of purrs and affection. For some reason, the older I get, the more active I become, partly due to a steady supply of fresh catnip.

Genie has friends who visit regularly. Marilyn, her closest friend, lives in our village and runs a feral cat program. This is a fishing village and unfortunately, people regularly "dump" kitties off at the roadside, abandoning them and thinking, I guess, that the fish will jump right out of the ocean and supply them with food. Marilyn safe-catches them, has them neutered and their ears notched, identifying them as neutered feral cats. She releases cats who are unadoptable. Some are so feral that it's unlikely they could ever adjust to lives with a human family. Marilyn and her husband also have 15 former feral cats living with them. All are dearly loved and show it.

I also look forward to seeing the raccoons that come right up to our sliding glass door at the back of the house and eat dog biscuits out of Genie's hand. My favorite raccoon friend is Lucy, who arrived the first year as a baby, and for the past two summers, has brought litters of her own. Last summer, the tiny litter came right up the two steps and peeked in the door. It took a bit longer for them, one at a time, to eat out of Genie's hand – with Lucy watching carefully of



Dottie & Lucy

course. One of the babies, when it was a bit bigger, would climb on the patio rail and play with Genie's clothes pins. She loved to toss clothes pins all over the patio and if she did that to get attention, I guess it worked. I hope Lucy brings some more babies for me to watch through the glass door this summer. It has been a rough, snowy, icy winter here and I hope they are all safe.

The only bad news in my letter: my adoptive Dad, who Genie married in 2001, passed away in September, 2007. I miss him. He had such a warm lap and the two of us spent many hours napping together in his recliner. I spent many more hours sleeping on his hospital bed in the living room during the six months before he died. We kept each other company and I didn't know any other way I could show him my love except to stay at his side, sick or not.

Well, that's it from Sandy Cove, Nova Scotia. I am one of your oldest "success stories" and wanted to let you know. Thanks again for saving my life and giving me the opportunity of having a wonderful "rest of my life" with Genie.

Sincerely,
Dottie
Sandy Cove, NS

AFOC TAG SALE

Don't forget to join us on the weekend of May 29th, 30th and 31st for the 2009 Tag Sale. We've had remarkable success over the many years that Anneliis Koiv has been hosting the event. Old friends keep returning and so many newcomers discover AFOC. Of course all of the sale proceeds go to the support our shelter.

You can start setting your treasures aside now and plan to drop them off at the tag sale garage as of May 1st. We are able to resell a wide range of items, including higher end contributions. All donations are tax deductible. The only things we cannot accept are used clothing, heavy exercise equipment and large pieces of furniture.

Volunteers are needed to help set up and sell, starting May 28th through May 31st. Working behind the tables is fun, so consider giving your time to us on that weekend.

The actual sale will kick off at 2 P.M. on Friday and run until 8 P.M. It will continue all day Saturday from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. and wind up Sunday between 8 A.M. and noon.

The dropping off place for donations is the garage behind the lawn at 159 Nod Road, on the Simsbury Avon line, at the locations where our tag sales are traditionally held.

There will be a clipboard with pen in the garage for donors to write their names, addresses, phone numbers and approximate value of donations, which will enable us to send you a tax receipt.

Call Anneliis at (860) 833-7674 to volunteer and/or if you need more information. Look forward to seeing you there.

FOSTERING : THE KITTY QUEEN



My sister and I live across the street from each other. We have always been dog people, currently have four dogs, and have never had a cat. My uncle George is a volunteer at AFOC and at the beginning of January, he asked my sister if she would be willing to foster a mother cat and her six kittens, just rescued from an abandoned house. She agreed and two days later, mother and kittens arrived.

As my brother-in-law and one of my nephews are allergic to cats, they had to find a place in their house that would be comfortable for the cats but not too close to them. The family room turned out to be just that place.

My sister has four children and I have three. The kittens were the greatest thing that has happened to us in a long time. They were always being played with by a family member, and I was amazed that they ever learned to walk, as they were carried everywhere they went. Between our children and all of their friends, the kittens became socialized very quickly.

The day came that the kittens were eight weeks old and were ready to be adopted. We were all sad to see them leave, but knew it was for the best. AFOC would find the right homes for each of them.

George called me a few days later, to see if I was interested in fostering a Teacup Chihuahua and her newborn puppies. I immediately said yes and the kids went out to buy everything needed to feed and take care of the puppies, but the puppies didn't come. The person who found them decided to keep them and I must confess, we were all disappointed.

However, two days later a mother cat and five kittens were rescued and we were ready for them. My daughter wanted to be responsible for the kittens and since she loves animals so much, I thought that she would do a great job. And she did!

The kittens and their mother were moved into her room. She immediately gave them all names. Every morning, she would clean their litter boxes and bring them food and water. Each time she left her room on a kitty errand, one of the kittens would follow her. Occasionally, she'd allow another member of the family to hold a kitten, but that wasn't very often. We began to call her the "Kitty Queen." At nursing times, she would restore all of the kittens to their mother and quietly but firmly close the door. She also carried the kittens around the house in a large pocketbook with their little heads

sticking out of the top.

My daughter knows that the kittens are scheduled to leave and again it's going to be very sad for everyone, but we all know that the kittens will go to loving homes. We also know that there are many other kittens that will need a home and my daughter is ready to love and care for them.

Ryan
East Granby, CT

SHOSHI & HER PUPS

AFOC took in a young, sweet Shih Tzu Mix and her six, three-week old, puppies. This adorable family was rescued from a home in Hartford that was overrun with animals needing food and medical attention. After a thorough examination by our West Hartford vet, and a badly needed bath, Shoshi was whisked off to a foster home. The puppies are thought to be a mix of Shih Tzu and a Boston terrier dad.

Shoshi (renamed by her future mom) is a wonderful mother! There are four handsome boys and two lovely girls. Their eyes are open and they are grooming themselves. Soon they'll be on substantial food, receive vet care, and become regularly socialized until their debut. These pups were put up for adoption and will be ready to leave Mom during the second week of April.

Editor's Note: As of the publication of this newsletter all of these cuties have been adopted, with Soshi also finding a good home. Judy especially wants to thank Wendy Belfer-Tyler of Connecticut Vet Specialists in West Hartford for doing such a good job of looking after the family and launching them into a future life.

The Editor



SPECIAL EVENT!

Animal Friends of Connecticut is holding a benefit at The Flatbread Pizza Co in the Shoppes at Farmington Valley on Wednesday, June 10th, from 6 to 9 PM. Scot Haney will be hosting the event and there will be a silent auction. We will receive a percentage of all dinner checks that evening.

Flatbread Pizza has a warm and lovely ambience with a huge stone hearth on which you can watch your pizza baking. There are comfortable Captain's Chairs around handsome wooden tables. There is even a small bar with a little library if you have to wait to be seated.

Flatbread serves local organic produce, free range chicken and nitrate free meats in addition to their unique pizzas. You'll have great time, dine well and have a chance to meet other AFOC members – and you'll be benefiting our shelter all at the same time.

The address and phone number for the Flatbread Pizza Co is 110 Albany Turnpike Canton (location of the former Canton Golf Course) and can be reached by calling (860) 693-3314. So please mark the June 10th date on your calendars and I'll see you there!

The Editor

GREEN DREAMS : THE GARDENS OF JAN NICKEL

Jan Nickel's Avon garden is now twenty-five years old and many AFOC members have visited over the years. Sponsored by The Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program, hers is one of the national gardens selected annually as a memorable tribute to artful design.

As you know, a portion of the proceeds earned in the two summer open –to-the-public events go to Animal Friends and that is one of the many reasons you should visit.

The garden is full of pleasurable discoveries even for prior viewers. With an inspired combination of unique perennials, shrubs and trees and distinctive use of architectural elements, Jan combines a timeless and playful space. Her garden has been featured in Woman's Day: Garden & Deck Design (Fall: 2004) as well as in various quality garden books.

The visiting dates this summer are Sunday, July 19th, and Sunday, September 13th. Admission is \$ per person with children under 12 admitted free. To reach the garden at 71 Country Club Road in Avon: from #84 take exit 39/Farmington/Route #4. Continue to intersection of Routes #10 & #4. Turn right on Route #10 for 5.7 miles to Route #44. Turn left onto Route #44 and follow for .7 mile to intersection of Route #10 and Old Farms Road. Turn left onto Old Farms Road and proceed 1.3 miles to Country Club Rd. Take a right onto Country Club Road and travel .3 mile to #71. Please park across the street on Tamara Circle.

We've had a terrific turnout in the past with many members revisiting and new members joining them. Please save the two dates. You can have a lovely summer afternoon and help your favorite animal shelter at the same time!

Editor



Please reach into your heart and give what you can afford to help these animals get a second chance in life.

Your gift is tax deductible.

We would be happy to talk with you about endowments, grants, gifts-in-kind, corporate sponsorship or other long-term support. Please call us at (860)827-0381

Animal Friends of Connecticut, Inc

P.O. Box 370306

West Hartford, Connecticut 06137-0306

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- I'd like to help. Volunteers please call 827-0381.
- I am interested in becoming a member. Please add me to your mailing list to receive the newsletter (new members only).